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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VOLUNTEERS RAP WITH PROSPECTIVE MINORITY STUDENTS

CHARLESTON, IL.--A group of Eastern Illinois University minority students have completed a phone-a-thon with prospective minority students in a special program initiated by the EIU Admissions Office.

Admissions Counselor William Smith said 35 to 40 student volunteers spent several evenings telephoning 348 high school minority students throughout Illinois who have been accepted to Eastern for the fall semester 1988.

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"The phone-a-thon is just one of the ongoing activities our office is involved in to increase minority involvement and it is the first time our office has done a telephone campaign of this magnitude," Smith said. He said the phone-a-thon is also part of a campaign designed to increase the percentage of minority students attending Eastern.

Nearly 600 minority students are enrolled at Eastern this semester, he added.

"The phone-a-thon gives students an opportunity to learn more about Eastern from a student's perspective," said Smith, "and it adds a personal touch."

A cross-section of student volunteers were selected as callers so they would be able to answer questions on a variety of topics. Smith has also been present during the rap sessions from 6-8 p.m. in the Physical Plant.

Since high school seniors are apt to apply to more than one state college or university, Smith said he hopes a call from an Eastern student will encourage prospective students to come here and will instill in them the confidence they need to succeed.

"Projects like this one will hopefully ease the minds of some students who may have second thoughts about attending EIU," Smith said.

He commends the volunteers for their hard work and said the students being called have been very receptive to the telephone campaign.

The phone-a-thon is only one example of Eastern's continued support of activities to recruit, graduate and place minority students. Other special programs have included a summer leadership camp for minority high school students and a minority newsletter.